

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp, comprising a central body having a discharge space provided therein, two capillaries closing off respective end openings of said central body and an electrode positioned within each respective one of said capillaries;  
wherein said central body and said capillaries comprise an alumina material or an alumina-based ceramic material; and  
wherein an average diameter of alumina grains in said central body is greater than an average diameter of alumina grains in said capillaries; and  
wherein ~~an~~ said average diameter of alumina grains in said capillaries is in a range of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 25  $\mu\text{m}$ .
2. (Previously Presented) A discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein an amount of magnesium oxide, yttrium oxide, zirconium oxide, scandium oxide, lanthanum oxide, or their combination present in the material of said capillaries is 1.5 times greater than that present in the material of said central body.
3. (Previously Presented) A discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein said central body and said capillaries comprise an alumina-based composition.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently Amended) A discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp, comprising a central body having a discharge space provided therein,

two capillaries closing off respective end openings of said central body and an electrode positioned within each respective one of said capillaries;

wherein said central body and said capillaries comprise an alumina material or an alumina-based ceramic material;

wherein said central body and said capillaries are simultaneously sintered; and

wherein an average diameter of alumina grains in said central body is greater than an average diameter of alumina grains in said capillaries; and

wherein an said average diameter of alumina grains in said capillaries is in a range of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 25  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (New) The discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein a diameter of said discharge space is greater than a diameter of said end openings.
7. (New) The discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp according to claim 6, wherein a diameter of each said capillary is substantially constant.
8. (New) The discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp according to claim 7, wherein each said capillary is positioned within a respective one of said end openings.
9. (New) The discharge vessel or chamber for a high-intensity discharge lamp according to claim 5, wherein a diameter of said discharge space is greater than a diameter of said end openings.
10. (New) The discharge vessel or chamber for a high intensity discharge lamp according to claim 9, wherein a diameter of each said capillary is substantially constant.

11. (New) The discharge vessel or chamber for a high intensity discharge lamp according to claim 10, wherein each said capillary is positioned within a respective one of said end openings.